

ROCO **UNCHAMBERED**

Musician-led and curated chamber concerts

A photograph of a man with glasses, smiling, holding a trombone. He is wearing a dark jacket over a blue shirt. The background is a blurred interior space with large windows.

Thomas Hultén

TROMBONE

Friday, February 24, 2023 • 7:30pm
Midtown Arts and Theatre Center Houston

MATCH



*Shaping the Future of Classical Music through
Energizing, Modernizing, and
Personalizing the Concert Experience*

ROCO is a dynamic and innovative professional music ensemble that flexes from 1 to 40 players from all over the US and Canada, with guest conductors from around the world.

Performing intimate concerts in dozens of venues, ROCO's musicians do not just give concerts — they challenge preconceptions, create extraordinary experiences and foster new relationships with audiences through the language of music.

ROCO.ORG

“Laying down a vibrant and diverse soundtrack for an entire city.”

--Arts and Culture Texas

Thomas Hultén
TROMBONE

ROCO Principal Trombonist

CHAIR SPONSORS:

Rick & Kathy Plaeger

Jim Bulger & Phyllis Troxell



Thomas Hultén has served as Principal Trombone with ROCO since 2011, and with the Houston Grand Opera/Houston Ballet Orchestra since 2009. Originally from Sweden, Mr. Hultén started playing trumpet at the age of 10 and switched to trombone at age 13. After his military service with the Swedish Army Band, he studied at the Gothenburg Conservatory and won his first professional audition while still in school at the age of 22. He has performed with the Houston Symphony, the Gothenburg Symphony, the Danish National Symphony, the Royal Swedish Opera and the Stavanger (Norway) Symphony, with artists like Ray Charles, Tony Bennett, Natalie Cole, Barry Manilow, Michael Bolton and on touring Broadway shows like Lion King, Book of Mormon and Wicked. An accomplished jazz artist, Tierra Studios released his Grammy-nominated debut album “Slide Side” in 2009. ROCO commissioned the trombone concerto “Servant of Peace” by Dorothy Gates that Thomas premiered in 2016. He was a guest artist at the International Trombone Festival in 2018 and is in the Chris Bill Bohemian Rhapsody YouTube video with 2.8 million views. He is married to Tina, a professor at Baylor College of Medicine and together they have three very tall sons and two not very tall cats.

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*This concert is partially sponsored by the
Consul General of Sweden in Houston, Astrid Marklund
and Soren Marklund*

Thomas Hultén, ROCO Principal Trombonist

Ali Jackson, Tuba

Sarah Spencer, Piano

Thomas Hultén

"Tuta Oh Sure"

-----2 minutes-----

Camille Saint-Saens (San-sahn)

"Cavatine"

-----5 minutes-----

Eric Ewazen (Ee-WAH-zehn)

"Pastorale"

-----9 minutes-----

ROCO UNCHAMBERED

Paul Holmes

"Lento"

-----5 minutes-----

Thomas Hultén

"Slide Sonata"

-----9 minutes-----

I. Valse • II. Song • III. Fête

---INTERMISSION---

Stephen Bulla

"Diversions"

-----7 minutes-----

Thomas Hultén

"Five Miniatures"

-----9 minutes-----

Q&A with Thomas Hultén

Ernest Rance

"Cheerful Comrades"

-----6 minutes-----

Possible encore piece... maybe a surprise.

Guest Artist

Ali Jackson,
Tuba



Ali Jackson enjoys a multifaceted life of a freelance tubist and public-school band director/music teacher in the Houston area. A native of Sugar Land, Texas, Ali has performed with the Houston Symphony, Theater Under The Stars Orchestra, Symphony of Southeast Texas, Heights Five Brass Quintet, Houston Brass Quintet, Texas Brass, the Sugar Land Winds Concert Band and the ROCO Brass Quintet. Ali has been a featured soloist with the Houston Brass Band on their debut world premiere album, a guest soloist at the Midwest International Music Conference, and featured on British Brass Band radio broadcasts throughout Northern Europe.

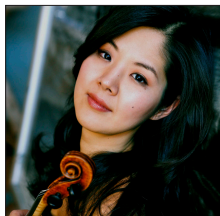
Ali enjoys collecting vinyl records, deejaying, working on cars, studying severe weather events, and restoring vintage audio equipment when away from the tuba or teaching.

Guest Artist

Sarah Spencer,
Piano



Sarah Spencer began her piano studies at age five, and by age seven was winning numerous local and state-level competitions. At the age of ten, she gave her first live radio recital on “Spotlight Presentations” over WGMS-FM in Washington, DC, and she made her orchestral debut at age twelve with the American Youth Symphony Orchestra. She received her bachelor’s degree in piano performance from the Eastman School of Music where she studied with Dr. Nelita True, her master’s degree in piano performance from Rice University as a student of Mr. John Perry, and her doctoral degree from Rice University as a student of Mr. Brian Connelly. Praised in the Houston Chronicle as a pianist of “great strength and intensity,” Dr. Spencer’s most recent concert appearances include the Westside Houston Piano Recital Series, the Third Millennium Concert Series, guest soloist with the Fort Dodge Area Symphony, a recital at the Newberry Opera House, and several recital broadcasts on “The Front Row” over KUHF-FM, Houston, Texas. In addition to her solo performances, Dr. Spencer collaborates frequently with faculty and artists from the Houston Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Eastman School of Music, and the University of Southern California. A versatile pianist, Dr. Spencer can be heard performing for Houston’s Theatre Under the Stars, Broadway Across America, Opera in the Heights, Houston Sings, and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Dr. Spencer worked as a full-time professor of piano at San Jacinto College for over twenty years. Originally from the Washington, DC area, Dr. Spencer makes her home in Houston with her husband, bass-baritone Joseph Rawley, and their daughter, Susannah.



grateful

SEASON 18



CALENDAR



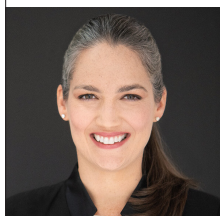
■ Albert and Margaret Alkek Foundation **IN CONCERT SERIES**

■ **CONNECTIONS** ■ **UNCHAMBERED** **LS** **LIVE STREAM**



■ **From Here, There, and Nowhere**

LS Wednesday, March 22, 2023 • 7:00pm
Asia Society Texas Center



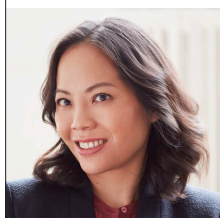
■ **The Nightingale Book Launch**

Saturday, April 1, 2023 • 10:30am
Houston Public Library - Central Library



■ **Concertmaster Scott St. John & Pasha Sabouri, violin**

LS Saturday, April 1, 2023 • 7:30pm
MATCH



■ **Future**

LS Saturday, April 29, 2023 • 5:00pm
The Church of St. John the Divine

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